

Surgeon General's Office

Washington D.C. Nov 4th 1864

Sir

Professor Baird of the Smithsonian Institution informs me that he is about to communicate with ~~with~~ you in reference to the completion of the series of catalogues of your museum for the Smithsonian Library and he politely offers to transmit this letter at the same time.

The U.S. Army Medical Museum established nearly two years ago in connection with this office, now contains ^{thirty five} hundred specimens in the surgical series, ^{five hundred in the medical series} one hundred and fifty plaster casts and models, one hundred drawings and paintings and eleven hundred microscopical preparations. In the Surgical series illustrations of gun shot injuries predominate; but many of them are of exceeding interest, and they are accompanied by not a few illustrations of surgical diseases of much value. In the medical series, the intestinal lesions of camp fever and dysentery, the great causes of mortality in our armies are largely represented.

Duplicates of very many of these specimens have been prepared and we are now engaged in photographing the choicest of them. I propose to send you a series of these photographs, and I am authorized to offer to exchange with you a series of illustrations of gun shot injuries, one for each important region, and preparations of lesions of the intestinal canal in fever and dysentery together with microscopical slides of the same lesions, for duplicates for your collection. If you do not possess them I am authorized furthermore, to offer in return for the catalogues of your college, the volumes of Medical and Surgical Statistics of the U.S. Army from 1839 to 1859 and the records of Meteorological Observations by the Medical Officers of the Army, prepared under the supervision of Asst. Surgeon R. H. Coolidge U. S. A. and published in three quarto volumes of 1950 pages. Should you already have these works, I can only offer as an equivalent for the catalogues of the Museum of the College which we are anxious to possess, the series of photographs already mentioned and a copy of the Catalogue of the

Army Medical Museum which we hope to publish early
in the coming Spring.

I remain Sir Very respectfully

Your obt. Servant

George A. Otis

Curator Army Med Museum

Professor Flower

Curator of the Museum
of the Royal College of Surgeons
of London.